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TABLE 27

EXPORT OF PIGS AND PORK PRODUCTS 1924–39 231 439

YEAR	LIVE PIGS (1,000 head)	BACON (1,000 metric tons) [a]	FRESH PORK (1,000 metric tons) [a]
1924	43.5	0.0	1.1
1926	72.0	0.0	2.0
1928	41.8	0.6	1.2
1930	154.1	17.4	3.2
1932	33.7	40.9	5.5
1934	46.1	30.7	4.4
1936	117.0	10.2	5.1
1937	137.7	10.5	3.5
1938	153.1	11.8	1.6
1939	179.7	15.6	1.1

[a] One metric ton = 2,204.6 U.S. pounds.

plus wool and to buy clothing ready-made in town instead 236
of making it themselves. Since the climate is unfavorable for sheep breeding and the wool from Lithuanian sheep is therefore poor, domestic wool is mixed by the textile industry of Lithuania with imported wool of better quality. The value of wool imports in recent years was as follows: in 1936, 1,859,700 litas; in 1937, 2,558,900 litas; in 1938, 1,681,900 litas and in 1939 1,436,100 litas. The bulk of this wool came from Great Britain. There is perhaps no great future for sheep breeding; on the contrary, it is likely that this branch of livestock production will decrease even more.

POULTRY FARMING

Poultry farming is also a very old branch of Lithuania's 235
agriculture, and the role it has played in the exports picture has not been unimportant. Poultry farming is especially

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235 suited to countries with small farms, but in Lithuania, compared with Belgium, Holland, and Denmark, it is still undeveloped.[28]

TABLE 28

POULTRY PRODUCTION IN 1935[a]

FOWL	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE OF ENTIRE POULTRY PRODUCTION
Hens	4,614,420	72.4
Ducks	601,450	9.4
Geese	946,510	14.9
Turkeys	210,730	3.3

[a] *Lietuvos Statistika*, 1935, p. 51.

In the first years of independent Lithuania, egg production, in comparison with the production in other branches of agriculture, was high, but in later years it diminished in importance and relinquished its position to milk products and meat. The highest prices for eggs exported were received in 1921–22. In the latter year, egg exports constituted almost a third of the whole export value, as may be seen from Table 29. The main cause of the decrease in exports of eggs after 1922 was, of course, the fall in prices. In 1922 the

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TABLE 29

MAIN EXPORT ITEMS OF LITHUANIA 1920–22

	1920	1921	1922
Total value of exports (in millions of marks)	490	631	3,047
Flax (percent of total)	46.4	29.3	7.8
Forest products (percent)	35.5	30.3	39.0
Eggs (percent)	3.6	23.4	32.1

[28] Krikscionas, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

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wholesale price for ten eggs in London was 4.90 litas; in 1923, 4.19 litas; in 1922, 3.73 litas; and in 1927, 2.45 litas.[39] From Table 29 it may be seen that in the first years of Lithuanian's independent national existence the most important exports were forest products, flax, and eggs; in later years, when conditions became more settled, these products became of secondary importance. How poultry production and poultry exports changed in value after 1924 may be seen from Table 30. The exports of eggs did not diminish in volume as much as in value, because the most drastic

TABLE 30

EXPORTS OF POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

(*In Thousands of Litas*)

YEAR	EGGS	POULTRY [a]	POULTRY MEATS	TOTAL
1924	19,938	4,956	391	24,285
1925	14,872	3,824	308	19,003
1926	13,575	5,206	817	19,597
1927	10,944	4,511	560	16,015
1928	14,435	6,810	157	21,393
1930	11,892	7,759	1,806	21,457
1935	2,117	1	1,369	3,487
1938	7,833	2,283	2,746	12,862
1939	8,196	3,170	3,615	14,981

[a] Geese, hens, ducks, turkeys.

drop in price levels occurred in 1931–32. For a few years before the Soviet Russian occupation experiments were conducted in the improvement of poultry and in the organizing of efficient egg-collection stations. This was done by the coöperatives. At the same time there was considerable improvement in the prices received for these products.

[39] Kubilius, *op. cit.*, pp. 180–90.

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of the Government. Since then, the dairy industry and the manufacture of butter have made rapid progress. In 1937, the 193 dairymen's co-operative societies, all of which are equipped with the most up-to-date machinery, supplied 420 million kilogrammes of milk — including that delivered to the 2,052 cream-separating centres — and produced 16.9 million kilogrammes of butter. Though, since the war, the population has increased by some 300,000 inhabitants, the consumption of dairy products per head is at present greater than before the war; and butter exports, which were formerly negligible, amounted in 1924 to 524 metric tons and in 1936/37 to 15,000 tons approximately.

Hand in hand with the development of the dairy industries has gone the development of pig-breeding (skim-milk is used for the fattening of young pigs). Not only has the number of pigs considerably increased (from 450,000 in 1913 to 1,192,000 in 1937), but the quality of the pigs (for the manufacture of bacon) has greatly improved. With the Government's financial support, a bacon export industry has been rapidly built up. In 1928, bacon exports amounted to 150 metric tons; in 1932, to more than 25,000 metric tons, and, in 1936/37 (being affected by the introduction of bacon import quotas in England), to more than 10,000 metric tons. These figures, together with those for the export of live pigs (in 1932, 34,000, and, in 1936/37, 125,000 approximately) and the number of pigs kept are proof of the progress made.

Poultry-keeping also has made considerable headway; more pure-bred poultry are being raised, and feeding and poultry-keeping technique have become more efficient. Horse-breeding likewise has improved, thus facilitating the sale of Lithuanian horses in foreign markets.

Such are the methods whereby the Ministry of Agriculture, the Chamber of Agriculture and the organisations working in conjunction with the latter are striving to improve the production both of crops and live-stock and to foster agricultural industries (dairy industries and the manufacture of bacon). Since 1931, the Chamber of Agriculture has also been endeavouring, with the co-operation of the Union of Young Farmers' Clubs, to rationalise and modernise home industries (weaving, knitting, fur-dressing, felt-making, pottery, furniture, etc.) and to improve the artistic qualities of the articles produced. Products of the home industries are thus enabled to compete with factory-produced goods.